



State of California  
The Natural Resources Agency  
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)

## NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

<b>PROJECT TITLE</b>	Grupe Ranch Training Burn		
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>	2792 OAK GROVE RD MARIPOSA, CA 95338 Portions of SEC 10, 15 T7S R19E MDB&M	<b>COUNTY</b>	Madera & Mariposa
<b>LEAD AGENCY</b>	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)		
<b>CONTACT</b>	Brian Mattos, Unit Forester		
<b>ADDRESS</b>	CAL FIRE Madera-Mariposa-Merced Unit Headquarters 5366 Highway 49 North, Mariposa CA 95338	<b>PHONE</b>	(209) 742-1907

### Project Description

The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection is proposing training burns on approximately 160 acres of foothill woodland located in the southern sierra foothills, approximately 9 miles south of the town of Bootjack, CA, off Oak Grove Road near the Striped Rock Creek crossing. This area is primarily agricultural land for cattle grazing, with dense understory dominated by annual grass. Implementation would be after grass fuels cure, prior to peak fire season (May or June) or after fire season in the fall before heavy winter rains. Holding lines are existing road shoulders, plow lines that ranchers maintain, and dirt roads with supporting handlines. Routine fire control training activities would include various hand firing devices in the designated burn blocks, mobile attack along existing service road, and progressive hose lay operations while in a controlled environment. All burning will be performed in accordance with terms and conditions of a burn permit issued by the Mariposa and San Joaquin Air Pollution Control Districts.

### EXEMPTION STATUS

- Categorical Exemption Type/Section: Class 4, §15304: Minor Alterations to Land  
 Statutory Exemption (state code section):  
 Ministerial (§21080(b)(1); 15268)  
 Declared Emergency (§21080(b)(3); 15269(a))  
 Emergency Project (§21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c))

### REASONS PROJECT IS EXEMPT

CAL FIRE is tasked with increasing acres of land treated, and this training burn will be another step toward achieving that goal. The project meets the requirements of Class 4, §15304: Minor Alteration to the Land Categorical Exemption to CEQA. Class 4 includes minor public or private alterations in the conditions of land, water, and/or vegetation which do not involve removal of healthy, mature, and scenic trees except for forestry and agricultural purposes. Field review by CAL FIRE staff confirmed that no 15300.2. Exceptions apply which would preclude the use of a Notice of Exemption for this project. The activities will not result in the taking of endangered, rare, or threatened plant or animal species, or sedimentation to surface waters. CAL FIRE staff has concluded that no significant environmental impact would occur to aesthetics, agriculture and forestland/timberland, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, geology and soils, greenhouse gas emissions, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology and water quality, land use planning, mineral resources, noise, population and housing, public services, recreation, transportation/traffic, or utilities and service systems. Documentation of the environmental review completed by the Department is kept on file at CAL FIRE Mariposa Headquarters at 5366 State Highway 49 North, Mariposa CA 95338.

### DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING

*Matthew Reischman*

11/9/2020

Matthew Reischman, Assistant Deputy Director      Date  
Resource Protection and Improvement  
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection